[English]

Child Labour Welfare Projects

11. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of voluntary organisations operating in different parts of Karnataka and being funded by the Union Government to launch Child Labour Welfare Projects grant-in-aid Scheme during the last 3 years as on date; and

(b) the details of achievements made by such organisations during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects for rehabilitation of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations, Ministry of Labour is releasing funds to the child Labour Projects Societies registered at the district level for implementation of child Labour Projects. In Karnataka, Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for 3 districts viz Bijapur, Dharwad and Gulbarga with a coverage of 5000 children. The Position regarding release of funds to these districts is as follow:—

Year	Funds Released
1995-96	Rs. 63,10,500/-
1996-97	Rs. 25,84,000/-
1997-98	Rs. 27,00,000/-

In addition, one voluntary organisation viz. Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore received financial assistance for taking up an action programme for the benefit of child labour, under the Scheme of grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation. The Organisation ran 3 centres for the benefit of 50 child labourers each. The Funds released to this Organisation from 1994-95 onwards are as follows:—

Year	Funds Released
1995-96	Rs. 50,000/-
1996-97	Rs. 50,000/-
1997-98	Rs. 1,16,910/-

Unused Equipments

12. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of precious money has been spent by the hospitals of the Central and the State Governments in the purchase of costly equipments and obsolete computers and the same equipments have not been put to use for the benefit of the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof; hospital-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for purchasing such costly equipments when they are not to be put in use; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Illegal Indian Immigrants

13. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that a batch of 1,262 illegal Indian immigrants deported from Saudi Arabia arrived in Mumbai on September 30, 1997 by the ship "Al Madina";

(b) the owners of the ship "Al Madina";

(c) whether the Ministry propose to inquire in the conditions in which the Indians were deported; and

(d) whether even minimum facilities were not provided to the deportees during the travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes Sir, Ministry is aware that a batch of 1232 illegal Indian immigrants were deported from Saudi Arabia by the ship "Al Madina".

(b) "Al Madina" flies the Egyptian flag.

(c) and (d) We understand that the normal practice followed by Saudi Arabia is that immigrants who overstay there beyond the period of their valid visas, or those who take up employment in contravention of the visa conditions, are liable to deportation. Deportees are free to choose their own mode of travel. In case they do not have adequate funds, the practice of the Saudi authorities is to arrange for their deportation. In the recent period, the Saudi government has been resorting to deportation by ship. In this particular case, as the immigrants were deported at the cost of Saudi Arabia, the ship was contracted to carry the passengers directly under the instruction of the Saudi authorities. Based on the experience of the passengers on "Al Madina" and on the intervention of the Consul General of India, Jeddah, the Saudi authorities have subsequently ensured that there would be a limit on the number of passengers carried on